

NATIONAL CONVENTION

The Central Organising Committee which met in New Delhi last month accepted the Uttar Pradesh Party's invitation to hold the Second National Convention of the Party at Agra which will be held on November 25th and 26th this year.

The draft Election Manifesto of the Party will be placed before the Convention for consideration and adoption.

The Parliamentary Sub-Committee of the Party met in Madras on April 18 and 19.

TUMULTUOUS WELCOME TO JAIPUR MAHARANI

April 14 saw a mass upsurge such as Jaipur has not witnessed in living memory. Around 50,000 people crowded Rambla Grounds to hear Maharani Gayatri Devi make her political debut. All Jaipur seemed to be there. Several thousand Rajasthani women lent colour to the scene. The Maharani was repeatedly applauded as she spoke.

Shri Laxman Singh of Dungarpur, President of the Party in Rajasthan was in the Chair and Mr. M. R. Masani, General Secretary of the Party welcomed the Maharani into the ranks of the Party.

All the speeches were in Hindi. The text of the Maharani's speech forms a supplement at the end of this Newsletter (page 9)

OUR MEMBERS IN PARLIAMENT

MR. RAMGOPAL GUPTA — BUDGET

In the last issue of our Newsletter we had reported in detail Mr. Masani's speech on the Budget in the Lok Sabha. Mr. Ram Gopal Gupta, our member from U.P. in the Rajya Sabha, made an effective speech in the Upper House criticising the Budget and its effects on the Common Man. Reproduced below are some extracts from Mr. Gupta's speech:

"The Finance Minister has once again presented the same old type of medicine in a new flask, only the dosage is stronger. The Budget is bluntly aimed at increasing the tax burden on the middle class, the lower income group and the common man, and will effectively squeeze the last naye paisa or savings from their pockets... The imposition of the new taxes is a measure calculated to deprive the people of any attempt at decent living."

Referring to an assurance given in the Rajya Sabha

six months earlier by the Commerce and Industries Minister that cloth prices should be brought down, Mr. Gupta said: "But now the Finance Minister has done all he could to increase the cost structure of the textile industry, and cloth will definitely cost more. The Commerce Minister said that the industry and labour could join hands to increase exports. Now with the increased taxation on textiles the export of this commodity will be hampered."

In a reference to the heavy balance of payments deficit and the country's increasing indebtedness, Mr. Gupta warned: "The Third Five Year Plan envisages a further increase of borrowings to the tune of Rs. 2,600 crores. And by 1965 we may have to pay interest on more than Rs. 3,000 crores of loans. The country is being heavily indebted every year, and it will take the earnings of generations to effect repayments, if we cannot improve on the export front."

Asking the question as to why the unemployment problem still remained unsolved, Mr. Gupta answered: "It is because the savings are not sufficient to help small and big enterprises to expand and give more effective employment. After all, the generation of more wealth in the hands of the private sector will naturally expand the production and economy at a much quicker pace than now. ...With all their avowed democratic intentions, I am afraid, without regimenting the country thoroughly, it will not be possible for the Government either at Central or at the State level, to give full employment, so long as they continue to pursue the present policy."

"The Public Sector enterprises are big money-losing institutions foisted on the nation by the Government. We know the State Trading Corporation act as commission agents. But by the time the State Trading Corporation have added their commission to export-import deals the prices of the commodities go up beyond international prices, and it is mostly the other countries who profit from our loss."

Mr. Gupta charged the Government with monopolistic tendencies and gave several instances of how public sector enterprises were being inefficiently run. He referred to the reports of the Public Accounts Committees of Parliament which had thrown ample light on wasteful and infructuous expenditure incurred in several State managed projects involving huge financial investments.

MR. J. MOHAMMED IMAM — HOME MINISTRY

Mr. J. Mohammed Imam our member in the Lok Sabha spoke on behalf of the Party during the debate

on the grants for the Home Ministry. During his speech he touched upon a number of issues, ranging from the protection of minorities to the disparity in incomes between Central and State Government employees. Here in brief are some of the points he made:

Mr. Mohammed Imam drew attention to the many unhappy incidents that have happened recently which had created a feeling that the minorities are being neglected. He said that such incidents brought down the reputation of the country not only internally but abroad. Referring to some recent occurrences, Mr. Imam said that some papers had reported that the police themselves took active part and helped the hooligans in perpetrating these crimes. He wanted to know what action and measures the Home Ministry was intending to adopt to prevent such incidents. He said that a Committee must be appointed to go into this question, because during the last year four or five such incidents had happened.

On the question of the former ruling princes, Mr. Imam said that they had made sacrifices for the sake of the unity of the country. But now they were under the "thumb" of the Home Ministry. They had apparently lost even their citizenship rights. "Can they join any Party as they like? Can they express their opinions? Can they express their will?" asked Mr. Imam. Pointing out to the Bastar incident, he said that the ruler of Bastar was still very popular and his people still wanted him. But because he expressed views which were not liked by Government and the ruling Party, he had been detained and deposed. Mr. Imam added that in Rajasthan and other places there was regular coercion and even threats that if they (the princes) supported any but the ruling Party, they would lose their privy purses and other privileges.

Mr. Imam demanded that, in matters relating to succession etc., the President should act not on the advice of a partisan government but on the advice of an independent judicial tribunal.

Mr. Imam expressed the opinion that it was a great mistake to have located the Supreme Court in Delhi. It amounted to a denial of justice to poor people living in far-off places. He said that it should be shifted to Bangalore or some other place in the South.

He gave numerous other examples to prove the point that the concentration of offices in the Capital was not only not necessary but actually put people to considerable hardships. Mr. Imam felt that the South was not being given its due importance. He said that in the national interest one session of Parliament should be held in Bangalore. In fact, he said, this project had the blessings of the Speaker.

Referring to the army of employees and officials, Mr. Imam pointed to the Budget of the Home Ministry where provision had been made for 1,600 additional servants and their establishments.

He said that there was great disparity between the wages paid to the Central and State Government employees because of different scales of pay. Giving an example he said: "In the States there is a Central Government employee getting Rs. 200 a month. In the next office there is a State Government employee getting Rs. 50, though both of them do the same kind

of work. How can you "expect efficiency and contentment among the State Government employees?" asked Mr. Imam. He called upon the Home Ministry to take steps to introduce common scales of pay throughout India.

MR. MOHAMMED IMAM — EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Speaking during the debate on grants for the External Affairs Ministry, Mr. J. M. Imam felt that the sending of Indian troops to the Congo was not well advised in view of the situation there. He said that the international situation continued to be cloudy on account of the unhelpful attitude of Mr. Khrushchev. Referring to Laos, Mr. Imam felt that, more than the Congo, the Government of India should be concerned about events in Laos, as it was part of the Chinese game to encircle and isolate India. He said that if Laos went Communist then all countries around Laos would come under communist influence and that would constitute a grave threat to the freedom and integrity of India.

Mr. Imam drew attention to the fact that, while Western nations had gradually given independence to their colonies, the Soviet Union and China were colonising and enslaving independent countries. He said that the world was divided into the democratic bloc and the totalitarian bloc and that India should belong to the democratic bloc.

PROFESSOR RANGA — DEFENCE

Speaking during the Defence debate in the Lok Sabha, Prof. Ranga fully supported Acharya Kripalani's demand that an inquiry commission should be set up to go into defence affairs, particularly army appointments.

Describing Mr. Krishna Menon as one of the best students of Marxism, Prof. Ranga said he (Mr. Menon) would be rendering a great service to Prime Minister Nehru by vacating his office.

If, however, Mr. Nehru and Mr. Krishna Menon could not, like "Siamese twins" be separated, the latter should be content to remain a Minister without portfolio with ambassadorial status, which he had been enjoying previously.

Professor Ranga said it was the Defence Minister and not the Opposition which was disrupting the morale of the Army.

Professor Ranga added that the Defence Minister should have known when the enemy trespassed into Indian territory. "If you didn't know that, you do not deserve to be there," affirmed Prof. Ranga.

He attacked the Defence Ministry for allowing Soviet pilots to fly over strategic and sensitive areas.

PROF. RANGA'S APPEAL TO KISANS

Prof. Ranga President of the Party, in the course of an appeal in the name of the Bharat Kisan Sammelan to all Kisans, Kalakars and agricultural workers, called upon them to campaign against the imposition of ever-rising burdens of taxation.

In the course of his appeal, Prof. Ranga observed

that the Central and State Governments had together imposed 75 crores of additional taxation, besides mopping up the savings of the people to the tune of over 300 crores. During the third Five Year Plan period the Government threatens to impose 1,600 to 2,500 crores of additional tax burdens. There was thus no hope for the peasants or workers to escape these crushing burdens of taxes.

Pointing out to the wasteful expenditure by Government, Prof. Ranga observed that under Congress rule the administration had become more inefficient and costly accompanied by a growing bureaucracy.

Inflation was mounting and both Mr. Nehru and the Reserve Bank of India had confessed that the people were becoming poorer and the rich were becoming

richer and that the disincentives for saving, investing and utilising people's economic resources for the industrial and agricultural development of our were growing apace.

Prof. Ranga concluded his appeal by saying: "There is only one way to put an end to this engine of exploitation and that is, to refuse to return the Congress to power by voting against the Congress at the next General Elections. But, in the meanwhile, the people have to get it made abundantly clear to the Congress leaders and organisation all over the country through their campaign against the imposition of any additional tax burden that it is high time for them to recast their third Five Year Plan and to decide against imposition of any more taxes."

NEWS FROM STATE PARTIES

ANDHRA

A districtwise survey in Andhra would indicate the extent of the Party's organisational development in the State and by implication the Ruling Party's growing apprehension of the strength of our Party. However, due to problems of space we shall highlight Party activity only in some of the more important areas of the State.

At the village of Peda Buddidi in the Srikakulam district, a village committee was formed with Shri Suryanarayana Naidu as President. Shri Revalla Pakeeru Nayudu, General Secretary of the Constituency Committee, was present on the occasion.

In Vishakapatnam, Party activity has stepped up considerably. A area Unit has been inaugurated at Yelamanchili on March 12. A public meeting held on the occasion was addressed by Shri N. A. Narasimha Murthi, Shri Bapu Naidu and others.

Kokkirepalli in the Yelamanchili Taluq now has a committee which was formed soon after a public meeting on March 26 under the presidentship of Shri Allamraju Lakshminarayana.

A Committee for the Agency portion of Vishakapatnam district was recently set up, thanks to the efforts of District Party Secretary, Shri Beesetti Apparao, M.L.A. An important development in this area has been the enrolment in the Party of many eminent and respected individuals. Among them are Shri Gagunde Gamalla Dora and his followers, Shri Deelo Malam Naidu, Shri Sobukota Bodam Naidu, Shri Vanduram Balam Naidu, Shri Vonugu Devanna Dora, Shri Pande Haridasu, Shri Marri Muthyalu and kisan leaders and workers like Messrs. Vobbeti Rangarao, Jagannadharaju, Killo Arjuna and others. It has been decided to hold conferences in important centres of the district towards the end of April.

The President of the Party, Prof. N. G. Ranga toured the East Godavari District between the 14th and 17th

of March. Wherever he went he was enthusiastically received.

Arriving at Samalkot Station, Prof. Ranga was received by District Secretary Pendyala Satyam and others, on March 14. He visited Vaddur and Peddapuram villages and addressed a workers' meeting at the latter village. The next day he went to Katheru, Thorredu and Seethanagarim. On the 16th he reached Kakinada via Marthipadu and G. Medapadu. At Kakinada he addressed a workers' meeting at the residence of Shri M. V. Sastri, M.L.C. President of the District Committee. Reaching Vetlapalem the next day he addressed workers there and called on Shri Yeleti Seshagirao, District Secretary who was ill at Palathodu. Under the presidentship of Shri Duriseti Apparao, Shri Ranga addressed a workers' meeting.

At Katheru near Rajahmundry, Prof. Ranga addressed a public meeting which was presided over by Shri Pendyala Satyam.

At Thorredu which he next visited, Prof. Ranga was received with great ceremony. A public meeting was held on the occasion where Shri Polni Venkata Durgam presided. A welcome address was read out to him on behalf of the people of Mulaklanka. He received a similar reception at Raghudevapuram and addressed another public meeting at Rapaka with Shri Ganne Thathabbayi as President. Arriving in Seethanagaram, Prof. Ranga once more took to the platform for another public meeting. Shri Neerukonda Veeraraju presided.

State President Shri B. Ramachandra Reddi and General Secretary Shri T. Krishnamma toured various areas in the West Godavari District. They visited Eluru, Pulla, Palacol Achanta, Penuguonda, Bhimavaram, Gundugolanu before returning to Vijayawada. At Eluru they addressed a workers, and public meeting. They also collected funds for the Party after meeting various sympathisers. At Kavali again they addressed influential workers and sympathisers. At Pulla the State President and General Secretary dis-

cussed with workers problems relating to organisation as also at Achanta. At Bhimavaram they were entertained to tea by members of the local Bar.

During their tour they were given invaluable help by Shri Raja Rao of Pulla Shri Atchutharamaraju of Gundugolanu, Komareddi Bapayya Chowdhary, Manam Venkataramayya and others.

District Organiser Pratti Seshiah undertook a village by village tour of West Godavari district throughout the month of March. During the course of his tour he addressed meetings at Tadepalligudem, Arugulanu Alampur, Racherla Darsiparru, Mudunur, Bodapadu, Kasipadu, Chilakalampadu, Parimella and Kaspapadapadu which lasted him from the 1st to 30th of March. He reports that at all these places villagers evinced keen interest and gathered to attend the meetings in large numbers.

The Gudivada Town Committee in the Krishna District met on March 17 with Dr. S. Sreeramulu in the Chair. Member of the State Committee Shri Sunkara Sathyanarayana spoke on the occasion on the need to form committees throughout the district.

The Krishna District Committee met on March 26 under the Chairmanship of State President Shri B. Ramachandra Reddi. Methods of collecting funds was the major item discussed at this meeting. A resolution was passed that the district leaders should extensively tour the district from the 2nd to 12th April to collect funds in order to purchase a jeep, hold the district Convention and run a political school.

On March 4, State General Secretary, Shri T. Krishnamma, visited Kantheru in the Guntur district, accompanied by district organiser Shri N. Veerachari. After discussing with villagers and party workers problems of Party organisation he addressed a public meeting at night with Shri Maruthi Prasad in the Chair. Mr. Krishnamma explained to the audience the difference between the principles of the Congress and the Swatantra and how the former had increased the poverty of the people and had only succeeded in corrupting the administration. He called upon the people to vote Swatantra. Mr. Veerachari who also spoke said that Pandit Nehru was following the Communist policies of Russia and China and that the liberty of the people was gradually being destroyed.

Several Firka Committees have been formed in the Bapatla Taluq. A meeting held at Ranga Mahal decided to tour the taluq to collect funds with the assistance of the President and Secretary of the District Committee.

The Secretary of the Rayadrug Taluq Committee Shri Nippani addressed a public meeting at the Rani Choultry in Rayadrug on March 25. Over a thousand people were present at this meeting, it is reported.

A Taluq Committee has been formed at Tandur in Hyderabad district. The Organising Committee of Greater Hyderabad has been reconstituted with Shri J. D. Italia as President.

In the district of Medak, an ad hoc Committee was formed with Shri K. Ramanujayya as President and Shri D. Ramachandrarao, Advocate as Vice-President.

BIHAR

All roads in Darbhanga led to Dalsing Sarai on March 11 and 12, for the First State Convention of the Bihar State Party was being held there. Right in the middle of what the Congress considered to be its "stronghold", the State Party conclusively proved to the consternation of the old men of the ruling Party that not only had the Party come to stay in Bihar but that it was ready to provide an alternative to a faction-ridden, corruption-prone administration in the State. The importance of this Convention can be gauged from the fact that prominent luminaries of the Party from all over the country were present to lend support and ensure the success of the Convention. Rajaji was there to inaugurate it, Mr. Munshi to preside over it, Professor Ranga to hoist the flag and Messrs Paliwal and Masani to be the principal speakers. It was well worth the effort for it is reported that over 50,000 people were present on both these days to listen, to applaud, to acclaim and to approve, the speeches and resolutions.

Shri Janki Nandan Singh, General Secretary of the State Party and President of the Darbhanga unit, in his capacity as Chairman of the Reception Committee, welcomed the leaders, delegates and members of the public. Raja Jagat Kishore Prasad Narain Singh, General Secretary, presented the General Secretary's report. On the second day, when Mr. K. M. Munshi had to leave for Patna, the State President, Raja of Ramgarh, presided over the Convention.

Important resolutions were passed at this meeting among which were one on Chinese aggression, Minorities, Adivasis, the collection of wealth by Congressmen etc. The principal political resolution entitled "Party's task in the coming year" stated that the Party was established "to stop the erosion of popular liberties and the drift to state capitalism and totalitarianism implicit in the policies of the Congress Government at the Centre and that in the States and to provide the Nation with a clear-cut alternative way of life and Government. Since the Party was established, the need to defeat the disastrous policies of the Congress Government, both domestic and international, has become more urgent. Changes in the personnel of the Union or State Cabinets cannot and do not in any way change the situation. The Swatantra Party has never been concerned with the personalities or the caste affiliations of those in power but only with their policies. Its objective can only be fulfilled after the Congress Government in New Delhi and its satellite regimes in the States are replaced. This convention therefore calls on all members and local units of the Party to intensify their efforts for the defeat of the Congress Party in Bihar at the General Elections next March."

The resolution on Chinese aggression denounced the short-sighted policy of the Congress Government which had enabled the Chinese to destroy Tibet's freedom. While condemning the weak and hesitant policy towards Chinese aggression, the resolution expressed its concern that the morale of the Indian army was being gradually undermined. It warned the people of

Bihar against the anti-national activities of the Communist Party and called upon them to take active steps to prevent infiltration of pro-communist propaganda.

A third resolution on Adivasis welcomed the growing political consciousness among the Adivasi population of Chhotanagpur, Santhal Parganas, Monghyr, Bhagalpur, Champaran and other parts of Bihar and appealed to them to cooperate in defeating the ruling Party in the next General Elections, and for their participation in the administration when the Swatantra Party came to power. The resolution affirmed that "the Adivasis in the State had not been given due protection of their rights and due opportunities for their development by the Congress Government" and assured them "that when returned to power, the Swatantra Party will provide the fullest opportunities and facilities to the Adivasis for promoting their educational, economic and cultural development in all possible ways, so that they may occupy their rightful place as citizens of Bihar on a basis of equality."

Adverting to the Minorities, a resolution passed at this Convention affirmed that if returned to power, the Swatantra Party would protect the civic rights, lives and property of the minorities and afford full opportunities for the growth of their religion and culture, keeping in view the national solidarity of the country.

Turning its attention to the peasantry, another resolution stated, that the Swatantra Party was of the firm conviction that "the peasants should have full freedom to cultivate their land and sell their produce in any manner they choose and that the State should contribute to their progress by arranging seeds, fertilizers and irrigational facilities." Condemning the Government's plans for cooperative farming, the resolution continued that "cooperative farming was improper, impractical, unscientific, expensive and a conspiracy to deprive them of their proprietorship and to reduce them to serfdom. Cooperative farming was really collective farming and State farming and therefore," said the resolution "the first Convention of the State Party records its strong resentment against the Congress Government's plans to impose cooperative farming in the country."

A reference was made to the wealth of Congressmen in the course of another resolution. It stated that Congressmen have amassed large fortunes by exploiting their position by unfair means. Hence the Convention opined that, to clean public life, the Government should appoint a screening Committee to enquire into such cases and warned that, if Government did not do so, the State Party would appoint a Commission on its own to enquire as to where and how the Congressmen in position got their money.

Numerous other resolutions dealing with local problems like accelerating industrial development in the Chhotanagpur area, construction of a bridge at Patna across the Ganga, denouncing the inordinate delay in the execution of the Gandak project, raising a Bund on the western side of Kosi and demanding that the uprooted families should be rehabilitated without delay, promising to hand over to Panchayats, administration of forests if the Swatantra Party is returned to power etc. were passed.

Mr. K. M. Munshi, in the course of his Presidential

address maintained that the thirteen years of Congress rule, had resulted in the disintegration of the country. Congress policies had destroyed the sense of India being one and indivisible and placed our national solidarity in danger.

Therefore he affirmed that the only way this dangerous drift could be stopped, would be to balance the despotic power of the Congress by a two-party system. Mr. Munshi warned "If we do not do so, whatever little is left of the freedom given to us by the Constitution would soon be destroyed." Mr. Munshi charged the Congress with having destroyed the fundamental rights of the citizens particularly the right to property and freedom to carry on business. "By various amendments to the Constitution," said Mr. Munshi, "both the rights are placed at the mercy of the State, thus destroying the economic basis of democratic life." Congress rule had placed in the hands of the ministers and officers such far-reaching power over the earning of the citizen that corruption has grown beyond all proportions. In addition, in the name of the Plan, which is highly unrealistic, the Congress Party has been taxing the people almost beyond endurance. Even bare necessities of life, like tea, coffee, betel-nuts and match-boxes are taxed, grinding down the poor in the country."

The policies of the Government had been the most oppressive towards the agriculturist. His right to own the land he cultivates has been placed at the mercy of the State by an inequitable law, ceilings have been imposed on the holding depriving him of the prospects of improving his economic status. Cooperative farming would result in the present owner of the agricultural land being converted into a mere wage earner, working at the directions of the officers or the nominees of the ruling Party. "All this, said Mr. Munshi, "is the result of this one party rule in the country. This Party is not inspired by a sense of mission. Its only objective is to retain power at any cost. Though torn by internal rivalries, it uses its power, patronage and means of propaganda to perpetuate its rule." He believed that the Swatantra Party's duty, therefore is to fight for the restoration of the constitutional rights, guaranteed to us by the Constitution of 1950. To fight the Congress successfully, it is necessary that the Party should be organisationally strong.

Mr. Munshi concluded by saying: "It is for you to decide how long you will give a charter to this kind of misrule in Bihar. This is the only opportunity; if you miss it, it will never come again."

Soon after the Convention, the Raja of Ramgarh continued his organisational tour of the State. He visited the Purnea and Muzaffarpore districts, addressing numerous meetings at Rohua, Ganga Bazar, Patepore, Mahua, Sakra, Saraiya, Bahlolpore, Kamarther, Katra, Motipore, Ramnagar, Jarang, Berua and Jagarpore. In Purnea dist. he addressed public meetings at Forbesganj and Araria. He also addressed workers meetings in both these districts.

BOMBAY

The accent of the Bombay Party's activities during

the month was towards establishing local units in the various parts of the City as soon as possible. As a consequence, ward units are likely to be established in the very near future at Khar, Vile Parle, Girgaum, Sion and Bhandup. An office for the Khumbarwada unit of the Party was recently set up.

On the 14th of April, which also happened to be Dr. Ambedkar's birthday, the Bombay office organised a Public Meeting at Kamgar Maidan, a predominantly workers' locality. The various speakers after eulogising the services of Dr. Ambedkar to the country spoke at length on the threat to India from Communist China. The speakers also expressed their strong protest at the manner in which Soviet Pilots were being permitted to fly over our strategic border areas.

On the occasion of the Shivaji Jayanti Celebrations, the Bandra Unit of the Party organised a procession which is reported to have been nearly a furlong in length. A Photograph of Shivaji with a model of a typical fort of Maharashtra was an attraction in this procession.

In order to step up the pace of Party activity in the City the active workers of the Bombay Party now meet on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, when they discuss problems faced by them in their respective areas in an effort to resolve them.

GUJARAT

A tour of Panch Mahal district by State President Shri Bhailalbhai Patel has had a salutary effect on the Party's organisational development in the area. At Darol in that district Shri Bhailalbhai addressed a largely attended public meeting. Earlier the State President had participated in a Party workers' meeting at Surat on the 8th of March.

The rural areas of Gujarat are reported to be giving enthusiastic support to the Party especially in the Kaira, Baroda, Broach, Panch Mahal, Ahmedabad and Surat districts. The *Free Press Journal* of Bombay in its issue of April 16, commented:

"Of late, the Party has been gaining considerable ground though their strength is confined to some districts of the State like Kaira, Panchmahals, Baroda, Jamnagar, Junagadh and Kutch."

Chairman of the Party, Prof. Ranga, was in Gujarat recently. He addressed a series of public meetings at Ahmedabad, Bhavanagar and Jamnagar strongly criticising the Congress regime at the Centre and in the States. Prof. Ranga in the course of his Saurashtra tour had discussions with representatives of the Saurashtra Girasdar Association, Saurashtra Khedut Samaj and the Kutch Rajput Sabha. The *Free Press Journal* report also added that these groups have decided to align themselves with the Swatantra Party.

In this connection, it has been officially announced that Maharajkumar Himmatsingh of Kutch has joined the Party and has actively set about the task of organising the Party in his area. Along with the Chairman of the Bombay unit of the Party, Shri Murarji J. Vaidya, Maharajkumar Himmatsingh addressed a public meeting at Bhuj recently.

MADHYA PRADESH

The Indore region in Madhya Pradesh continues to be a beehive of Party activity in the State. While a number of conventions at the district level have been successfully organised, regional Party leaders have continued touring the countryside.

Kakasahib Parulekar toured the Dewas, Rajgarh and Ujjain districts where he is reported to have received good response in places like Dewas, Sonkaccha, Bagli, Jirapur, Machalpur, Hilchipur and Bioara. Shri Raghunath Prasad Gupta and Shri Raghuraj Singh accompanied Kakasahib and assisted in the establishment of party units in Rajgarh district.

In Dhar district, the newly appointed party organiser Shri Vinayakrao Mandloi is doing good work. Efforts are being made to hold the Dhar district Convention towards the end of April.

At Jhabua Shri Maganlal Pandhya, Shri Hukmichand Porwal and Shri Khan are active. They have established Party units in Alirajpur, Jobat and Bhambara. Public meetings were held at all these places.

In the district of Nimar a new party unit has been established in Kasrawad.

Party activity is also reported from Ratlam district where Shri Chajjed, Shri Kochhata, Shri Surekha and Shri Tiwari are putting in considerable effort.

The Indore regional unit confidently asserts that it has been gathering strength and is looking forward to render a good account of itself in the coming general elections in 1962.

An all-Party meeting was held at Ujjain on March 19 to protest against the Budget and the resulting increased taxation. The meeting was presided over by Shri Shantiswarup, Convenor of the local unit of the Swatantra Party. Representatives from other democratic opposition parties bitterly criticised the heavy budget taxations in the Central and State budgets in the light of the Common Man's financial stringency on the one hand and middle class low saving index on the other. A resolution protesting against the higher incidence of taxation was unanimously adopted after Dr. Chowbe of the P.S.P., Shri Jethwani of the Jan Sangh and Shri Omprakash of the Swatantra Party had spoken in support.

MADRAS

The State Party continued to make considerable inroads into the rural areas as well as as the towns. March saw the establishment of still more units at the grass roots level.

At Salem in the district of the same name a Committee for Ward No. 17 with Sri N. K. Rajaram as President was formed on March 2. Two days later another Committee was set up for Ward No. 12. Many village committees were formed following the visit of Dr. S. Krishnamurthy Rao the District President and the Secretary between 5th and 19th of March.

Constituency Committees were formed in the Tirunelveli, Nanguneri, Ambasamudram and Tenkasi Constituencies in Tirunelveli district. The District Committee met at Kallidaikurichi and shortly there-

after a public meeting was held at Ambai where the District President, Vice-President and others spoke explaining our Party's principles.

Committees were also established for the Walaja, Cheyyar, Wandiwash and Arni Constituencies as well as Area Committees for a number of polling areas in the North Arcot district. This followed a tour of the areas by the President, Secretary and other office-bearers of the District. Earlier the District Committee met on March 12 and chalked out a programme of intensive party work.

At Mettupalayam in the Coimbatore District a public meeting was organised by the Party on March 12 at the Gandhi Maidan. Shri G. K. Sundaram, one of the State Vice-Presidents, Sri S. Venkata Rao, district Party Treasurer and others addressed the gathering.

In the Nilgiris District, a public meeting was held on March 5 at the Rajaji Maidan. Shri M. S. Linga Gowder, District Party President addressing the audience explained the principles of our Party and warned the public to use their votes properly at the next elections.

Meanwhile in Madras city Rajaji addressed a few public meetings. On March 24, Rajaji addressed a meeting organised by the Pushpanagar Hut Dwellers' Association at Nungambakkam in Madras city. In the course of his speech Rajaji said that the solution to the State Government's tackling the hut dwellers problem did not lie in asking the slum dwellers to move "out of our sight" to the outskirts of the city. He called upon the Government to take a realistic approach to the problem as otherwise, there would be a breakdown in the life of the City for domestic and Municipal workers were essential for the city. Shri K. M. Subramaniam presided over the meeting which was also addressed by Shri M. Audikesavalu. On behalf of the Tamil Mandram of Nungambakkam, an address of welcome was presented to Rajaji.

Speaking under the auspices of the L.Y.M.A. on March 23 on the subject "Privilege motions in the Legislature", Rajaji said that in the olden days in England battles were fought between the King and the Nation and it was necessary for Parliament to ask for its rights, but that in this democratic age, it would be archaic to make such demands as they had no King to fight against, the Parliament itself being sovereign, and that in cases where the people's privileges came in conflict with the Parliament's privileges, they had to consider which was more important for democracy and which should be more carefully safeguarded. He was therefore of the opinion that though the dignity of the Legislature and the privileges for its functioning must be preserved, nobody should be allowed to take shelter under the umbrella of privilege for all things, thus corrupting the fundamental rights of the Press and the Citizen. A Retired Judge of the Madras High Court Shri V. Subramanian presided over the meeting.

State President Shri Saw Ganesan in the course of his tour of various districts in March addressed public meetings at Pudukottai Kumbakkam, Poovalur and Alangudi in the Tanjore District and Opanapatti in Trichy District. At Karaikudi in the district of Ramnad

a Town Committee was formed in his presence on March 15.

A Vice-President of the State Party, Shri S. S. Ramaswamy Padayachi, toured the district of Coimbatore during the month and addressed public meetings at Thottipalayam and Bhavani besides attending a district Party meeting.

MYSORE

A Conference of the Swatantra Party was held in the Taluk of Hosakote about 17 miles from Bangalore. In the morning the Party Flag was hoisted by Shri B. V. Narayana Reddy, one of the Treasurers of the Central Party and the significance of the Flag was explained to the gathering.

In the afternoon the Conference was inaugurated by Shri J. Mohammed Imam, M. P. one of the Vice-Presidents of the Mysore State Party. The meeting was also addressed by Messrs. V. P. Menon, K. B. Jinaraja Hegde and B. K. Nagur, M.L.A. A very large gathering of villagers was present and followed the speeches with rapt attention and frequently applauded the speakers. It is in this Taluk that members of the Swatantra Party command a majority both in the Municipal Council as well as in the Taluk Board.

On March 17 which also happened to be the Telugu New Year Day, the State Office moved into its new premises. State President Jinaraja Hedge unveiled a portrait of Rajaji and spoke on the qualities of head and heart of our Party's founder. Shri Hegde read out extracts from the speeches by Rajaji in the course of his recent North Indian tour. Shri V. P. Menon, who was also present, gave the audience an account of the important part played by Rajaji as the first Indian Governor-General during the momentous years when Sardar Vallabhai Patel was engaged in bringing the Indian States into the Indian Union.

ORISSA

Orissa will have mid-term elections in June, as a result of the breaking up of the Congress-Ganatantra Parishad coalition Government in the State.

Meanwhile, organisational work is going ahead. Committees at the Constituency level have been formed at Ersama and Cuttack Sadar in Cuttack district. A Party office has been opened at Khariar, the headquarters of the Kalahandi district under the presidency of Shri Jihetram Patel. Another party office was opened on March 22 at Kakatpur constituency in Puri District with Shri Narendra Dixit as President and Shri Rajkishore Panda as Secretary.

A Women's committee of the Orissa Party was formed at a meeting held in Puri town. The District President Shri Pandit Raghunath Misra presided over the meeting. A Committee consisting of Shrimathi Bimala Debi as Vice-President, Smt. S. M. Saraswati Debi as Secretary and Smt. Lakhimi Devi and Parbati Panda as Joint Secretaries was formed.

Efforts to popularise the Party's policies is also receiving the attention of the State Party. In the Jajpur

subdivision which has six Assembly seats and one Parliamentary Seat, meetings were held at different places. On the occasion of Baruni Jatra Mela on the banks of the Baitarani river at Jajpur a big meeting was held under the presidentship of State General Secretary Shri G. Jena. Shri Purna Chandra Misra Secretary of the Jajpur unit of the Party and other prominent men of Jajpur addressed the meeting. On the occasion of the Mela over 10,000 people congregate. One can therefore gauge the opportunity of popularising the Party on such occasions. Similar meetings were held at Khandara under the presidentship of Shri Karunakar Behera and at other places, like Rudhia, Baruhan Haripur and Sideswar on the occasion of the Asoka-stami Mela.

At Chandanpur in the Puri District a public meeting was organised by the Party. It is reported over a thousand persons were present. Shri H. Kanungo, Shri Harihara Das, M.L.A. Shri Madhusudan Mohapatra, Shri Balamukunda Das and Shri Nabakishore Das addressed the meeting. Pandit Raghunath Misra presided. Between the 28th of March and 4th of April public meetings were held at Jagatsinghpura to propagate the Party's ideology.

The State Committee met on April 16 at Balasore.

PUNJAB

An almost continuous series of conferences enabled the Swatantra Party's unit in the State to keep itself in public focus during the month. The Punjab Party reports that as many as ten conferences were held at various places throughout the State. The Conference at Gurdaspur on March 3, was the first to be held. It was addressed by Sardar Uttam Singh, District Unit President, Sardar Gurmej Singh a former M.L.A., Sardar Natha Singh, General Secretary of the District Unit and Sardar Gurdip Singh 'Deepak'. Over four thousand people were present at this conference where speakers emphasised the problems facing the people in their daily life and explained how the Swatantra Party would help them in easing their situation. The second Conference held in the same district the following day was addressed by the above leaders and Shri Krishna Lal and Shri S. Surrinder Singh. The latter recited 'Lok Geets' to the delight of the audience.

On March 7, a third conference was held at Adampur Doaba in the Jullunder District. State President Jathedar Udham Singh Nagoke presided.

Samana in Patiala District was the venue of the fourth Conference on March 11 attended by Raja Maheshindra Singh, M.L.A., Sardar Basant Singh, State Joint Secretary, Shri S. N. Khosla a former M.L.A. and Dr. Kali Charan Sharma of Ludhiana.

Two conferences were held on March 12. One at Dabbwali in the Hissar District where 456 members were enrolled on the spot and the other at Oathian village in Gurdaspur district.

On March 15 two more conferences were held at Mehta village and Taran Taran respectively in the Amritsar District. The State President presided. The Taran Taran conference was very well attended by

some fifty thousand people who had gathered there on the occasion of Ammavas Day on a pilgrimage to the historic Sikh temple.

On Cattle Fair Day a conference was held at Sirhind in the district of Patiala. A Harijan Panch of the locality presided.

The next conference at Sangrur was attended by Raja Maheshindra Singh, Sardar Basant Singh, Jathedar Udham Singh Nagoke, Shri S. N. Khosla and others.

The last conference held during the month was at Bhatinda on March 25. Primarily intended to reorganise the local unit, the conference was attended by the above State leaders. The Unit has since been reorganised and more active workers and enthusiastic office bearers have been included to step up party activity in the area.

A Conference of all democratic opposition Parties convened by the State Party will meet at Patiala on April 30. It is reported that the response received from the other opposition Parties is encouraging.

Earlier, in the Haryana region of the Punjab, the



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State General Secretary Chaudhury Dharam Singh Rath, was also busy organising meetings and conferences.

On 1st February a Sugar-Cane growers conference was held under the auspices of the Swatantra Party at Panipat in front of the Cooperative Sugar Mills. Angry protests were voiced by the growers against maladministration, nepotism, favouritism and corruption rampant in the sugar mills. Resolutions were unanimously adopted against the Ruling Party for withholding the election of Directors and for failing to convene a general meeting of the share-holders of the Cooperative Sugar Mill since its inception in 1955. Among those who addressed the meeting were Chaudhury Dharam Singh Rath, M.L.A., Major Karan Singh Malik and Choudhury Vijay Singh, President of the District Party in Panipat.

A Party workers' meeting was held at Kaithal on February 5 addressed by the above gentlemen and an enthusiastic worker of the Party Shri Jagjit Singh.

A conference of the Presidents and General Secretaries of the District units in Haryana was convened at Karnal in the State Sub-Office. The meeting, which was presided over by Chaudhury Dharam Singh Rath, discussed organisational matters.

Public meetings were held at Pasina Khurd and Hatipur in the Karnal district, and at Pipli Khera in the Rohtak district. Choudhury Vijay Singh, President of the Karnal District unit toured the villages of Barauta, Kalran, Phusgarh etc addressing public meetings wherever he went.

At Panipat a workers meeting of the Panipat Tehsil Swatantra Party was held where problems of party workers were discussed and decisions taken.

UTTAR PRADESH

The President and other officials of the State Exe-

cutive undertook tours of various areas of the State. In the first week of March, State President, Shri S.K.D. Paliwal and State General Secretary, Choudhury Layaq Singh inspected the Party office at Bahraich and addressed a workers' and public meeting there.

The new Divisional Organiser for Meerut, Shri Ratan Lal Joshi undertook a tour of the rural areas of the district, visiting Dasna, Modinagar, Pilakhuva, Loni, Ghaziabad and Hapur. At Hapur he attended a conference of businessmen where he explained how the Government's policy had adversely affected trade and commerce of the country. Three Constituency Committees have been constituted in the district.

On the occasion of the annual Exhibitions at Mainpuri, Agra and Itawah, the State Party chartered an aircraft to drop leaflets containing the Party's message.

Mr. V. D. Bajpai, member of the State Executive toured the Sulanpur district, addressing meetings and enrolling members.

The Organiser of the Party in Agra division Shri. Devi Dutt Paliwal and a few others visited Atrauli, Gagiri, and Kal holding meetings and contacting influential persons in areas they visited.

Choudhury Layaq Singh, M.L.A. accompanied by Shri Tika Ram Pujari, M.L.A., visited Mathura Jaswant Nagar, Ole and Sababad in the district of Agra, and Itawah.

State Treasurer, Shri Ragavendra Pratap Singh accompanied by Messrs Luqman Hussain and Baldeo Singh, M.L.A. visited Barabanki and made arrangements for the inauguration of the Party office there. They were successful in enlisting the support of Caoudhury Ram Singh, a well known businessman of the locality who undertook to help in organising the Party in Barabanki.

SUPPLEMENT

JAIPUR MAHARANI'S SPEECH

People are always asking me why I have joined the Swatantra Party? I should like to assure you that it was after a lot of thought that I have decided to join this Party. It is impossible for me to see what is happening in this country and especially in Jaipur to remain silent. People feel dissatisfied and they feel the situation is hopeless. But what is the use of talking? One must try hard to remove the cause of dissatisfaction.

Two years ago when I returned from Europe, I was extremely upset to see the old historic city of Jaipur was being destroyed. I spoke to the Chairman of the Municipality and also to the Chief Minister of Rajasthan about this, because to my mind, it was ridiculous to break the old walls of Jaipur City and put up a bazar in its place. There is ample room for markets in the new residential areas of the city. Jaipur city is an example of Indian culture and architecture and on

all accounts it is our duty to preserve it. When my effort to do so was futile, I turned to our Prime Minister Shri Nehruji for help. My appeal to him was not in vain and the destruction of Jaipur was stopped. For this I shall always remain grateful to him.

The whole country is dissatisfied, every class of person whether he be an industrialist or a tradesman, an agriculturist or a labourer, a Government employee or a craftsman—the people are unhappy.

People are being crushed under the burden of taxes. The articles of daily necessities have become extremely expensive. The price of cloth and food is rising steadily. Education, medical attention and justice are not only expensive but out of reach of most people.

With the introduction of co-operative farming, the agriculturist stands to lose his land. There are efforts to nationalise big factories and mills when the Govern-

ment has not the means to run them. Corruption is on the rise. The veteran and revered Leader, Rajaji tried several times to point out the right road to the Congress. But when they would not listen to his counsel, he formed a new party which is the Swatantra Party. People all over the country welcome it because they saw in it new hope and enthusiasm. I too saw in it all the good qualities which were once those of the Congress Party. That is why I joined this Party. There is a lot of controversial talk about me and some of the erstwhile princes joining this party. Why is all this controversy over the Maharajas and Jagirdars. It is something incomprehensible. The Indian Princes always maintained the arts and cultures of India in their States. They have fought many a battle for this country and have sacrificed so much for India. After the Independence of this country, when the new India was being built, the Rajas put forward a glorious example. The way they sacrificed their territories for the sake of the country, will go down in history. In the name of land reforms, the Jagirdars were asked to leave their jagirs which they did. But too soon their sacrifices were forgotten. To-day they are called reactionaries. All the promises that were given them are being gradually broken. This reflects on us badly in foreign countries because people from outside

think if the Government can break this agreement to its own people, why should it honour its agreements with foreign countries. And what about the Jagirdars who joined the Congress? Are they not reactionaries? Are only those who joined the other parties reactionaries? We have joined the Swatantra Party as ordinary citizens of India. Our Constitution gives us the right to join whichever party we prefer. The Swatantra Party respects the right of every citizen to be able to choose his own body and that is why it is becoming more popular every day.

I should like to assure you that if I can serve you in any way, I shall be happy. My husband and his fore-fathers have served you and this country for hundreds of years. I too wish to keep their example before me and do the same. You will, I am sure, help me in this. Your relationship and mine is an old one and one that will never be broken.

My dear sisters who are sitting here to-day, I should like to say to them that this work I have taken upon myself can never be fulfilled unless they help me. With their help I shall have more strength to work. This step which I have taken is in the tradition of Rajastani women and now I believe that you will follow me.

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